AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 38, wherein the filtration means of the first continuous flowpath comprises a tangential ~~filtration means~~ flow filter and the filtration means of the second continuous flowpath comprises a tangential ~~filtration means~~ flow filter.

3. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 38, wherein the portion of the filter medium of the first filtration means of the first continuous flowpath ~~and the~~ which is included in the filter medium of the second filtration means of the second continuous flowpath ~~include a filter medium which~~ is common to both the first and second continuous flowpaths.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 3, wherein the first filtration means of the first continuous flowpath comprises a plurality of filters, each filter defining a respective filter flowpath and having a respective filter medium disposed adjacent the corresponding filter flowpath for filtration of fluid passing through the corresponding filter flowpath, the filter medium ~~common to the first and second continuous flowpaths being associated with~~ of the first filtration means comprising the filter medium of the plurality of filters, and wherein the second filtration means of the second continuous flowpath comprises a subset of the plurality of filters comprising at least one but not all of the filters ~~and~~, the filter medium of the second filtration means comprising the filter medium of the subset of filters, wherein the or each filter flowpath of said subset of filters ~~being~~ is included in each continuous flowpath, and the remaining filters of the filtration means and the or each filter flowpath of said remaining filters ~~being~~ are included in the first but not the second continuous flowpath.

6. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 5, wherein ~~the fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath passes in parallel through~~ the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters of the first continuous flowpath are arranged in parallel.

7. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 6, wherein the system comprises a manifold connected to the filter flowpath of each filter and included in the first continuous flowpath, the portion comprising at least part of the manifold.

8. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 7, wherein the second continuous flowpath includes at least one bypass that allows fluid to bypass said at least part of the manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

9. (Previously Presented) A filtration system to claim 38, wherein the means for passing fluid to the first continuous flowpath comprises a reservoir.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 39, wherein the second continuous flowpath includes at least one bypass that allows fluid to bypass at least part of the first manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

12. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 39, wherein the first manifold is located below the filters for drainage of fluid from the or each filter flowpath not included in the second continuous flowpath into the first manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

13. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 39, including means for selectively restricting flow from the or each filter flowpath of said at least one filter.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 38, wherein the first pump means includes a pump for circulating fluid around the first continuous flowpath, the pump being inactive during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath, and fluid from the pump passing into the second continuous flowpath in response to said filtration of fluid circulating around the second continuous flowpath.

16. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 15, wherein the second pump means includes a pump for pumping fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

17. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 16, wherein the pump of the second pump means has a lower throughput than the pump of the first pump means.

18. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 16, wherein the pump of the second pump means holds a lower volume of fluid than the pump of the first pump means.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 40, wherein ~~fluid is passed from the manifold to said at least one of the filters via~~ the pump arrangement includes a pump located between the first manifold and the said at least one filter.

21. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 40, including means selectively operable to restrict the flow of fluid from said at least one filter.

Claims 22-37 (Cancelled).

38. (Currently Amended) A filtration system comprising:

a first continuous flowpath ~~for circulation of~~ arranged to circulate a fluid therearound, wherein the first continuous flowpath ~~including~~ includes:

first filtration means having a filter medium, an unfiltered fluid inlet means, an unfiltered fluid outlet means, and a filtered fluid outlet means, wherein the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means are arranged to direct unfiltered fluid along one side of the filter medium and the filtered fluid outlet means is arranged to direct filtered fluid away from the opposite side of the filter medium, ~~a fluid circuit coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the first filtration means; and~~

first pump means, and

a fluid circuit coupled between the first pump means and the unfiltered fluid inlet means of the first filtration means and further coupled between the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the first filtration means and the first pump means, wherein the first pump means is arranged with the fluid circuit to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath, wherein fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath ~~is filtered~~ passes through the first filtration means, a portion of the fluid passing from the unfiltered fluid inlet means along one side of the filter medium to the unfiltered fluid outlet means and a portion of the fluid ~~leaves~~ passing from the unfiltered fluid inlet means through the filter medium, where the fluid is filtered, and leaving the first continuous flowpath via the filtered fluid outlet means;

a second continuous flowpath ~~for circulation of~~ arranged to circulate a fluid therearound, wherein the second continuous flowpath ~~including~~ includes:

second filtration means having a filter medium, an unfiltered fluid inlet means, an unfiltered fluid outlet means, and a filtered fluid outlet means, wherein the filter medium of the second filtration means ~~comprising part~~ comprises a portion of the filter medium of the first filtration means, ~~a fluid circuit coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the second filtration means, and a~~

second pump means, and

a fluid circuit coupled between the second pump means and the unfiltered fluid inlet means of the second filtration means and further coupled between the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the second filtration means and the second pump means, wherein the second pump means is arranged with the fluid circuit to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath, wherein ~~a~~ the first continuous flowpath includes a first portion and the first portion of the first continuous flowpath is not included in the second continuous flowpath ~~and~~, wherein the second continuous flowpath has a lower volume than the first

continuous flowpath, and wherein fluid circulating around the second continuous flowpath ~~is filtered~~ passes through the second filtration means, a portion of the fluid passing from the unfiltered fluid inlet means along one side of the filter medium to the unfiltered fluid outlet means and a portion of the fluid ~~leaves~~ passing from the unfiltered fluid inlet means through the filter medium, where the fluid is filtered, and leaving the second continuous flowpath via the filtered fluid outlet means;

means for passing fluid to the first continuous flowpath in response to said filtration of fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath; and

a valve arrangement ~~operable~~ coupled to the first continuous flowpath or the second continuous flowpath to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath after fluid is circulated around the first continuous flowpath and to pass fluid from the portion of the first continuous flowpath to the second continuous flowpath.

39. (Currently Amended) A filtration system comprising:

a plurality of filters, each filter having an unfiltered fluid inlet, an unfiltered fluid outlet, a filtered fluid outlet, and a filtration medium and defining a filter flowpath between the unfiltered fluid inlet and the unfiltered fluid outlet for tangential filtration by the filtration medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath;

a first manifold connected to the unfiltered fluid inlet of each filter;

a second manifold connected to the unfiltered fluid outlet of each filter;

a first continuous flowpath comprising:

the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters,

the ~~manifold, a fluid circuit coupled via the manifold to the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters, and~~ first and second manifolds,

first pump means, and

a fluid circuit coupled between the first pump means and the first manifold and further coupled between the second manifold and the first pump means, wherein the first pump means is arranged with the fluid circuit to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath in parallel through the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters~~;~~, a portion of the fluid passing from the unfiltered fluid inlet along one side of the filter medium to the unfiltered fluid outlet of each filter and a portion of the fluid passing from the unfiltered fluid

inlet through the filter medium of each filter, where the fluid is filtered, and leaving each filter via the filtered fluid outlet;

a second continuous flowpath comprising:

the fluid flowpath of each of a subset of the plurality of filters including at least one but not all of the plurality of filters, ~~a fluid circuit coupled to each filter flowpath of said at least one filter, and~~

a portion of the first manifold which is connected to the unfiltered fluid inlets of the subset of filters,

a portion of the second manifold which is connected to the unfiltered fluid outlets of the subset of filters,

second pump means, and

a fluid circuit coupled between the second pump means and the portion of the first manifold and further coupled between the portion of the second manifold and the second pump means, wherein the second pump means is arranged with the fluid circuit to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath through each filter flowpath of said ~~at least one filter,~~ subset of filters, a portion of the fluid passing from the unfiltered fluid inlet along one side of the filter medium to the unfiltered fluid outlet of each of the subset of filters and a portion of the fluid passing from the unfiltered fluid inlet through the filter medium of each of the subset of filters, where the fluid is filtered, and leaving each filter via the filtered fluid outlet, and wherein the second continuous flowpath has a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath; and

a valve arrangement selectively coupled to the first continuous flowpath or the second continuous flowpath and operable in a first state to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath and in a second state to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath and to pass fluid from ~~at least part~~ a remaining portion of each of the ~~manifold~~ first and second manifolds into the second continuous flowpath in response to tangential filtration in said ~~at least one filter~~ subset of filters.

40. (Currently Amended) A filtration system comprising:

a plurality of filters, each filter having an unfiltered fluid inlet, an unfiltered fluid outlet, a filtered fluid outlet, and a filtration medium and defining a filter flowpath between

the unfiltered fluid inlet and the unfiltered fluid outlet for tangential filtration by the filtration medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath;

a first manifold connected to the unfiltered fluid inlet of each filter; ~~and~~

a second manifold connected to the unfiltered fluid outlet of each filter; and

a fluid assembly coupled to the plurality of filters and the ~~manifold~~ manifolds and including a pump arrangement and a valve arrangement selectively operable in a first state to circulate fluid though the ~~manifold~~ manifolds and in parallel through the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters and in a second state to pass fluid from ~~the~~ a portion of each manifold through each filter flowpath of at least one but not all of the plurality of filters.

41. (Currently Amended) A filtration system comprising:

a plurality of filters, each filter having an unfiltered fluid inlet, an unfiltered fluid outlet, a filtered fluid outlet, and a filtration medium and defining a filter flowpath between the unfiltered fluid inlet and the unfiltered outlet for tangential filtration by the filtration medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath;

a first manifold connected to the unfiltered fluid inlet of each filter;

a second manifold connected to the unfiltered fluid outlet of each filter;

a first continuous flowpath comprising the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters, the ~~manifold, fluid circuit lines coupled via the manifold to the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters, and~~ first and second manifolds, a first pump means ~~coupled in the~~, and fluid circuit lines coupled between the first pump means and the first manifold and between the second manifold and the first pump means to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath in parallel through the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters;

a second flowpath comprising at least a portion of the filter flowpath of at least one of the plurality of filters, a second pump means, and fluid circuit lines coupled between the first manifold and the second pump means, the second flowpath having a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath; and

a valve arrangement coupled to the first continuous flowpath or the second flowpath and selectively operable in a first state to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath in a parallel through the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters and in a second state to pass fluid along the second flowpath.

42. (Currently Amended) A filtration system comprising:

a pump arrangement;

a valve arrangement;

a first continuous flowpath for circulation of fluid therearound, the first continuous flowpath including first filtration means having an unfiltered fluid inlet means, an unfiltered fluid outlet means, and a filtered fluid outlet means, and a fluid circuit coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the first filtration means, wherein the pump arrangement and the valve arrangement are coupled to the first continuous flowpath and are operable in a first state to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath, whereby the fluid is filtered and a portion of the fluid leaves the first continuous flowpath via the filtered fluid outlet means;

means for passing fluid to the first continuous flowpath in response to said filtration of fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath; and

a second continuous flowpath for circulation of fluid therearound, the second continuous flowpath including second filtration means having an unfiltered fluid inlet means, an unfiltered fluid outlet means, and a filtered fluid outlet means, and a fluid circuit coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the second filtration means, wherein a portion of the first continuous flowpath includes a first portion and the first portion of the first continuous flowpath is not included in the second continuous flowpath, wherein ~~and~~ the second continuous flowpath has a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath and wherein the pump arrangement and the valve arrangement are coupled to the second continuous flowpath and are operable in a second state to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath and to pass fluid from ~~a~~ the first portion of the first continuous flowpath to the second continuous flowpath, whereby the fluid is filtered and a portion of the fluid leaves the second continuous flowpath via the filtered fluid outlet means.

43. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 42 wherein the pump arrangement includes first and second pumps, and wherein the first pump pumps fluid within the first continuous flowpath and the second pump pumps fluid within the second continuous flowpath.

44. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 42 wherein the valve arrangement includes a plurality of valves coupled in the first continuous flowpath or the second continuous flowpath.

45. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 42 wherein the first filtration means includes a plurality of filters, each filter having an unfiltered fluid inlet, an unfiltered fluid outlet, a filtered fluid outlet, and a filter medium positioned along a fluid flowpath from the unfiltered fluid inlet to the unfiltered fluid outlet and wherein the second filtration means includes one or more but fewer than all of the plurality of filters of the first filtration means.